

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)
Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 12, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members in attendance: Emily Blomme, Linda Dettmann, Janee Harvey, Dawn Kekstadt, Stephanie Hernandez, Matt Majeski, Mylene Wanatee, Kristin Konchalski, Chris Koeplin, Natalie Clapp

Members not in attendance: Susan Smalley, Holly Karr-White, Liam Healy

Observers in attendance: Kristie Oliver

Summary of Meeting:

Discussion around Membership

Emily, Chris and Kristin brought a proposal to the committee. An in-depth discussion was had and members agreed the following positions will be permanent:

- 1) Division Administrator (or designee)
- 2) DHS CFO (or designee)
- 3) Director of JCS (Chad Jensen)
- 4) Executive Director of the Coalition (currently Kristie Oliver)
- 5) Meskwaki Family Services representative (currently Mylene Wanatee)

There will also be a DHS Service Area Manager (SAM), DHS Social Work Administrator (SWA), DHS Program Manager as well as 6 providers. The Coalition will decide who the providers are based on service array. Susan Smalley's term expires on June 30th. Emily and Matt's terms also expire on June 30th, however they have both agreed to stay on the committee another year through the HHS alignment. We are looking to have a SWA from the Western Service Area replace Liam Healy in order to have representation across each service area. In order to increase diversity on the committee, members discussed several other possible members including possibly someone from the cultural equity alliance or IDPH.

Annual Statewide Meeting

The annual statewide meeting has not occurred since the beginning of the pandemic. Committee members agreed there isn't a need at this time for the statewide meeting as other means of communication regarding statewide initiatives and progress have been built out to fill the void left by the statewide meeting.

Staff Qualifications and flexibilities that would support contractors

There are several Administrative Rules that have been updated and are awaiting feedback. Natalie reported that the FCS contract changes have been extremely helpful. Contract amendments are offering some flexibility with staff qualifications.

System of Care for residential services

The committee had a discussion on how we can work collaboratively across multiple systems to get youth to the right level of care and right placement. There are no quick fixes as it is a nationwide problem with the workforce crisis. Members discussed current obstacles and possible solutions. Members also discussed if there is a way providers can come together to discuss their really challenging youth.

Next Meeting: June 9th -1:00 PM- 3:00 PM in person